

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 11-13, 15-19, and 22 are pending in this application, with claims 11, 17, and 19 being the only independent claims. Reconsideration of the above-identified application, as herein amended and in view of the following remarks, is respectfully requested.

Claim Amendments

Independent claim 1 is amended to recite “a plurality of printing mechanisms comprising printing cylinders mounted in the crossmembers, each of said printing mechanisms comprising at least one of said printing cylinders, said printing cylinders ~~and~~ forming a structural unit of said printing unit with said crossmembers such that said structural unit comprising said printing cylinders mounted on said crossmembers is removably received in said stand of said printing unit” and “a plurality of individual drives mounted on said at least one crossmember and corresponding to said printing mechanisms such that each of said printing mechanisms is driven by a respective one of said individual drives”. Support for this amendment is found at page 4, lines 18-22 of the English translation of the International application.

Claims 17 and 19 have been rewritten in independent form.

Claim 12 is amended to correct a minor typographic error and claim 22 is amended to be consistent with the changes to independent claim 11.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 17 and 19 were found to contain allowable subject matter and would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. In view of the allowable subject matter claims 17 and 19 have each been rewritten in independent form including the limitations of the base claim 11 and any respective intervening claims. Accordingly, independent claims 17 and 19 are now deemed to be allowable.

Rejection of Claims under 35 U.S.C. §§102 and 103

Claims 11, 15-17 and 21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,831,926 (Bowman).

Claims 12 and 13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as unpatentable over Bowman in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,883,429 (Kamoda).

Claims 20 and 22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as unpatentable over Bowman in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,539,857 (Weschenfelder).

Bowman fails to disclose, teach or suggest “a plurality of individual drives mounted on said at least one crossmember and corresponding to said printing mechanisms such that each of said printing mechanisms is driven by a respective one of said individual drives”, as now recited in independent claim 11.

In contrast, Bowman discloses a drive for the cylinder 43, 44, 45, and 46 which includes a shaft connected to the cylinders by gears. Col. 10, lines 24-45 of Bowman and Fig. 5 show that a driveshaft 67 drives both printing mechanisms, i.e., both sets of printing and blanket cylinders, via gear chains. Furthermore, col. 11, lines 49-56 discloses that additional printing stations may be connected to the shaft. Since Bowman shows only one drive for driving all of the cylinders, Bowman fails to disclose “a plurality of individual drives mounted on said crossmembers and corresponding to said printing mechanisms such that each of said printing mechanisms is driven by a respective one of said individual drives”, as now recited in independent claim 11.

Accordingly, the rejection of claim 11 as anticipated by Bowman should now be withdrawn.

Furthermore, since Bowman discloses a drive system for the cylinders that can be selectively disconnected, e.g., by the air cylinders 75 (see col. 10, lines 30-45), Bowman also fails to teach or suggest “a plurality of individual drives mounted on said crossmembers”, as now expressly recited in independent claim 11. Accordingly, independent claim 11 is also allowable over Bowman under 35 U.S.C. §103.

Dependent claims 12-13, 15-16, 18, and 22 are allowable for at least the same reasons as is independent claim 11, as well as for the additional recitations contained therein.

The application is now deemed to be in condition for allowance and notice to that effect is solicited.

It is believed that no fees or charges are required at this time in connection with the present application. However, if any fees or charges are required at this time, they may be charged to our Patent and Trademark Office Deposit Account No. 03-2412.

Respectfully submitted,
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